

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 SIL-01 OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00
SY-05 IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 /103 W

-----065900 202047Z /41

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 116

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LAPAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: MAY 20 REPORT: DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

REFS: (A) STATE 125753 (B) LIMA 4405, (C) IR 6 876 0136 78

1. SUMMARY. AT 11 PM MAY 19 GOP DECLARED A STATE OF
EMERGENCY AND SUPENDED GUARANTEES ONLY AS LONG AS
NECESSARY TO RESTORE ORDER RLEATED TO MAY 22-23 GENERAL
STRIKE; ACTION NOT REPT NOT INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH
ELECTION SCHEDULE. MORALES BERMUDEZ WILL APPEAR ON TV
8 PM MAY 20. DAILY PRESS HAS OFFICIAL SUMMARY OF
PROVINCIAL VIOLENCE DURING THE PAST WEEK, INCLUDING
12 DEATHS AND 47 INJURED. APRA RELATED LABOR CONFEDER-
TION DECLARED TWO DAYS NATIONAL MOURING FOR RECENT
DEATHS AND INJURIES MAY 22-23 TO COINCIDE WITH GENERAL
STRIKE. END SUMMARY.

2. AT 11 PM MAY 19 THE GOP DECLARED A NATIONAL STATE
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OF EMERGENCY THROUGHOUT PERU, SUSPENDING FIVE CON-
STITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AND CHARGING THE FIVE REGIONAL
MILITARY COMMANDERS, UNDER THE CHIEF OF THE JOINT
COMMAND, WITTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES.
THE CONSTITUINAL GUARANTEES SUSPENDED ARE:
--THE RIGHT OF HABEAS CORUPUS (ART. 56);
--THE INVOLABILITY OF DOMICILE (ART 61);

--THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY (ART 62);
--THE RIGHT TO FREELY ENTER, TRANSIT AND LEAVE THE
NATIONAL TERRITORY (ART 67); AND
--FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY EXILE OR REMOVAL FROM
DOMICILE WITHOUT DUE PROCESS (ART68).

THE GOP ALSO ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF THE PUBLICATION
OF INDEPENDENT WEEKLY MAGAZINES, AS WELL AS THE
CANCELLATION OF FREE PRESS SPACE AND RADIO AND TV TIME
FOR CANDIDATES TO THE CONSITUENT ASSEMBLY, NOW POSTPONED
FROM JUNE 4 TO JUNE 18. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE
STRESSED THAT THESE MEASURES WOULD REMAINS IN FORCE ONLY
AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO RESTORE CALM AND ORDER TO THE
COUNTRY, AND THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S
INTENTION TO INTERFERE WITH THE NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
POLITICAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ASSEMBLY, OR THE RETURN TO
CIVILIAN CONSITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN 1980, OUTLINED IN
THE GOP'S PLAN TUPAC AMARU.

3. PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF GOP LEADERS: PRESIDENT
MORALES BERMUDEZ WILL APPEAR ON NATIONAL RADIO AND
TV TONIGHT AT 8:00 PM TO SPEAK ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL
IMPORTANCE. PRIME MINISTER MOLINA AND PRESIDENT OF THE
JOINT COMMAND, GENERAL RICHTER PRADA ATTENDED COLUMBIAN
EMBASSY RECEPTION EVENING OF MAY 19 (REF C), CONVERYING
IMPRESSION OF GOV'T UNITY AND CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.
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4. OUTSIDE LIMA. GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS MAY 20 CARRIES
OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF DEATHS INJURIES AND DAMAGES DRESULTING
FROM THIS WEEK'S DISORDERS THROUGHOUT PERU. ACCORDING TO
THE ACCOUNT 12 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, AND 47 WERE INJURED
(INCLUDING SEVERAL POLICE OFFICERS). IT IS OUR UNDER-
STANDING THAT FOUR WERE KILLED IN HUANUCO, SIX IN CHEPEN,
AND ONE IN ICA. WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE 12TH
FATALITY. ACCORDING TO THE MAY 20 ACCOUNT, MOST OF THE
DISTURBANCES WERE CHARACTERIZED BY ATTACKS AGAINST
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, POLICE STATIONS AND BANKS.
MANY INVOLVED THE PARTIAL OR TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC
PROPERTY AND THE INTERRUPTION OF TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAYS AND
RAILROADS. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO BLOW UP A BRIDGE ON
THE HIGHWAY LINKING LIMA WITH THE CENTRAL SIERRA REGION
AND A BRIDGE LINKING ABANCAY WITH THE OCAST WAS BURNED.
POWER POLES AND LINES WERE DESTROYED IN HUANCAYO, LEAVING
THE CITY WITHOUT ELECTRICITY. IN HUARMEY, RIOTERS SACKED
THE OFFICES OF THE GOP'S SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGENCY
SINAMOS AND IN PACASMAYO THE STATE-OWNED SUPER MARKET
WAS SACKED. THE TELEPHONE PLANT IN JAUJA WAS PARTIALLY
DESTROYED AND IN THE LIMA SUBURB OF BARRANCA SOME 500

PEOPLE STONE AND ATTACKED THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING. EVEN IN REMOTE MADRE DE DIOS IN THE SOUTHERN AMAZON THE LOCAL POWER PLANT WAS REPORTEDLY DYNAMITED AND BURNED. THE OFFICIAL ACCOUNT SAYS THAT THE WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE WAS NOT RPT NOT SPONTANEOUS OR ISOLATED INCIDENTS, BUT RATHER THE RESULT OF A COORDINATED PLAN BY EXTREMEISTS DESIGNED TO CREATE CHAOS.

5. GENERAL STRIKE. THE APRA-RELATED LABOR CONFEDERATION (CTP) AFTER A LONG MEETING OF ITS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MAY 19 DECLARED TWO DAYS OF NATIONAL MOURNING MAY 22-23. AFFILIATES OF THE CTP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE BEING "INVITED" TO JOIN IN THE TWO DAYS OF MOURNING FOR THE DEATHS AND INJURIES CAUSED BY THE WEEK'S VIOLENCE. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MODERATE WING OF THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CNT) WHOSE CONGRESS IS TAKING PLACE AT ANCON (JUST OUTSIDE LIMA) HAS PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY VICTOR SANCHEZ ZAPATA ALERTING ITS RANK AND FILE THAT THE CNT HAS NOT RPT NOT CALLED FOR A LABOR STOPPAGE. GOP LABOR MMINISTRY NOTED THAT THE TWO DAY NATIONAL STRIKE (CALLED FOR BY THE MOSCOW LINE CGTP, THE RADICAL WING OF THE CNT, THE CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION CNA, CTRP-LIMA (LEFTIST LABOR GROUP WHICH BROKE WITH THE GOVERNMENT CREATED CTRP) THE FEDERATIONS OF PRINTERRS, CHAUFFERS, LIGHT AND POWER, AND BEERWORKERS) SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE UNDER THE RISK OF BEING DECLARED "ILLEGAL". LATTER DECISION OPURNS WAY FOR FIRING STRIKERS FAILING TO APPEAR FOR WORK FOR THREE CONSECUIIVE DAYS.

6. FOR BOGOTA. RE STOPOVER IN LIMA OF UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM MAY 23 VIA AV83 REFTTEL (A) WE WILL CABLE OR PHONE BOGOTA MONDAY MAY 22 WITH STATUS REPORT ON AIRPORT AND ARRANGEMENTS, FOR MEETING UNDERSECRETARY.

7. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THE COMMUNIQUE STATEMENT THAT SUSPENSION OF GUARANTEES IS TEMPORARY AND RELATED ONLY TO THE CURRENT DISTURBANCES IS SINCERE AND THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ STILL FIRMLY INTENDS TO HOLD ELECTIONS JUNE 18 IF HE CAN GET THROUGH THE PRESENT CONFRONTATION OVER THE AUSTERITY MEASURES. IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THAT INITIAL POLITICAL PARTY REACTIONS TO THE TWO WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS FROM JUNE 4 TO JUNE 18 HAVE BEEN UNDERSTANDING AND IN SOME INSTANCES ACCEPTANCE AT FACE VALUE.

8. TODAY'S GOP SUMMARY OF VIOLENCE DURING THE PAST WEEK WAS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO JUSTIFY THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY. THE SPECIFIC INCIDENTS AND CASUALTY FIGURES CONFIDENTIAL

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APPEAR ROUGHLY IN KEEPING WITH OUR EARLIER REPORTS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE PRESS ALLEGATION THAT MOST DISTURBANCES WERE NATIONALLY PLANNED, ALTHOUGH SOME ULTRA-LEFT GROUPS WERE OBVIOUSLY GETTING MORE ORGANIZED AS THE WEEK WENT ON.

9. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TWO DAYS MOURNING BY THE APRA-RELATED CTP NOT ONLY BROADENS THE BASE FOR STRIKE IMPACT (AT LEAST 25 PERCENT OF ORGANIZED LABOR HAS CTP LINKS COMPARED WITH SOME 40-50 PERCENT FOR THE CGTP AND RELATED GROUPS), BUT ALSO CHANGES THE POLITICAL COLORATION SOMEWHAT IN THAT THE ACTION IS NO LONGER SOLELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO COMMUNIST DOMINATED GROUPS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, NATIONAL SECURITY, DECLARATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA04412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780213-0339
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780538/aaaabfrf.tel
Line Count: 189
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4e6f179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 125753, 78 LIMA 4405
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2629483
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 20 REPORT: DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY
TAGS: EFIN, PINT, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e6f179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014